

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B-1

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MARTINEZ, ELVA vs. STATE FARM LLOYDS

9/24/2019

Cause: 201958681

CDI: 7

Court: 127

DOCUMENTS

Number	Document	Post Jdgm	Date	Pgs
87244103	Defendant's Original Answer		09/20/2019	6
87123252	Citation (State Farm Lloyds)		09/13/2019	2
86774698	Plaintiff's Original Petition		08/22/2019	9
-> 86774699	Request for Issuance of Service		08/22/2019	1
86814274	Civil Process Pick Up Form		08/22/2019	1

EXHIBIT B-2

8/22/2019 12:36 PM
Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 36190330
By: Nelson Cuero
Filed: 8/22/2019 12:36 PM

2019-58681 / Court: 127

CAUSE NO. _____

ELVA MARTINEZ,
Plaintiff

v.

STATE FARM LLOYDS
Defendant

§
§
§
§
§
§§
§

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW PLAINTIFF Elva Martinez ("Plaintiff") and files this Original Petition against State Farm Lloyds ("Defendant") and, in support thereof, would respectfully show the Court the following:

I.

DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN AND MONETARY RELIEF

1. Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 2. Tex. R. Civ. P. 190.3.
2. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000.00, including damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorney's fees. Tex. R. Civ. P. 47(c)(4).

II.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

3. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 54, Plaintiff asserts that all conditions precedent to recovery have been performed or have occurred.

III.

PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

A. PARTIES.

4. Plaintiff Elva Martinez is a Texas resident(s), who resides at 8219 Ginger Park Dr., Harris County, Baytown, Texas 77521.

5. Defendant State Farm Lloyds is an insurance company doing business in the State of Texas, which may be served through Corporation Service Company at 211 E 7th St. Ste. 620 Austin, TX 78701. As it relates to the event giving rise to this Petition, Plaintiff invokes the right to institute this suit against any entity that was conducting business using the assumed or common name of State Farm Lloyds. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 28, Plaintiff moves the Court to order Defendant to substitute its true name if different from the name stated herein.

B. JURISDICTION.

6. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this cause of action because it involves an amount in controversy in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court.

7. The Court has both general and specific personal jurisdiction over Defendant. The Court has general jurisdiction over Defendant, as Defendant has sufficient minimum contacts with and within this State and has purposefully availed itself of the privilege of conducting activities within this State, thus invoking the benefits, protections, and obligations of this State's laws. Defendant's contacts with this State, which are continuous and systematic, include doing business in Texas, selling and delivering insurance products in Texas, entering into contracts for insurance in Texas with Texas residents, insuring property located in Texas, underwriting insurance policies in Texas, accepting policy premiums in Texas and adjusting insurance claims in Texas. This activity was not the unilateral activity of another party or a third person.

8. Defendant's contacts with Texas, relied upon by Plaintiff, were purposeful and were not random, fortuitous, or attenuated, and are thus subject to the jurisdiction of this State in

suits based on its activities. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because: (1) Defendant purposefully availed itself of the benefits of conducting activities in Texas, and (2) the cause of action arises from or relates to those contacts or activities.

9. The Court has specific jurisdiction over this matter as it involved the execution, performance, and breach of a Texas insurance contract with Plaintiff, who is a Texas resident, with regards to an insured risk and/or property located in Texas. As a matter of law, Defendant conducted business in this State because, without limitation, Defendant conducted the business of insurance in Texas and committed one or more torts and/or violated the Texas DTPA and/or Insurance Code, in whole or in part in this State, against Plaintiff in Harris County, Texas. Defendant has sufficient and/or minimum contacts with this State, and thus Plaintiff affirmatively assert the Court's exercise of jurisdiction over Defendant comports with "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice."

C. VENUE.

10. Venue is proper in Harris County because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in Harris County. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.002(a)(1). The property subject to this dispute and which is owned by Plaintiff is located in Harris County. The insurance policy insuring the property was executed in Harris County. The damage to the property resulted from an event or occurrence in Harris County. The resulting insurance claim that was made by Plaintiff, the property inspection performed by Defendant, and the denial and/or underpayment of the insurance claim by Defendant occurred in Harris County.

IV.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11. Elva Martinez is a named insured under a property insurance policy issued by State Farm Lloyds. The policy number is ***7548.

12. On August 28, 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast, which included Harris County. The impact of this storm caused roof and interior damage to Plaintiff's house. The hurricane damaged the roof's shingles, causing water to enter into the house. As a result, her ceilings and walls experienced staining. Thereafter, Plaintiff filed a claim on her insurance policy.

13. Plaintiff asserts that Defendant improperly denied and/or underpaid the claim.

14. Plaintiff asserts that Defendant conducted a substandard investigation and inspection of the property, prepared a report, which did not include all of the damages that were observed during the inspection, and undervalued the damages observed during the inspection.

15. Defendant performed an outcome-oriented investigation of Plaintiff's claim. Defendant's (improper) claims handling included Defendant's biased claims adjustment, and an unfair and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiff's losses on the property. In addition, Defendant's claims handling included both an unreasonable investigation and underpayment of Plaintiff's claim.

V.

CAUSES OF ACTION AND ATTORNEY'S FEES

16. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing for all purposes.

A. BREACH OF CONTRACT

17. Plaintiff and Defendant entered into an insurance contract. Defendant breached this contract by, without limitation, inadequately and/or improperly investigating Plaintiff's insurance claim, wrongfully denying and/or underpaying the claim. Defendant damaged Plaintiff through its actions and/or inactions described herein.

B. PROMPT PAYMENT OF CLAIMS STATUTE

18. Defendant's failure to pay for Plaintiff's losses and/ or to follow the statutory time guidelines for accepting or denying coverage constitutes a violation of Section 542.001 *et seq.* of the Texas Insurance Code, including without limitation §§ 542.055-.058.

19. In addition to Plaintiff's claim for damages, Defendant's violation of the Tex. Insurance Code entitles Plaintiff to penalties, interest and attorney's fees as set forth in Section 542.060 of the Texas Insurance Code.

C. BAD FAITH

20. Defendant is an insurance company and insured Plaintiff's property. Defendant is required to comply with Chapter 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

21. Defendant violated Section 541.051 of the Texas Insurance Code by, without limitation, making statements misrepresenting the terms and/or benefits of the policy.

22. Defendant also violated Section 541.060 by, without limitation:

- a. Misrepresenting to Plaintiff a material fact or policy provision relating to coverage at issue;
- b. Failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of a claim with respect to which the insurer's liability had become reasonably clear;
- c. Failing to promptly provide to Plaintiff a reasonable explanation of the basis in the policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the insurer's denial of a claim or offer of a compromised settlement of a claim;
- d. Failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of a claim to Plaintiff or submit a reservation of rights to Plaintiff, and/or

- e. Refusing to pay the claim without conducting a reasonable investigation with respect to the claim;
23. Defendant violated Section 541.061 by, without limitation:
- a. Making an untrue statement of material fact;
 - b. Failing to state a material fact necessary to make other statements made not misleading considering the circumstances under which the statements were made;
 - c. Making a statement in a manner that would mislead a reasonably prudent person to a false conclusion of a material fact;
 - d. Making a material misstatement of law; and/or
 - e. Failing to disclose a matter required by law to be disclosed.
24. Defendant knowingly committed the acts complained of. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to exemplary and/or treble damages pursuant to Texas Insurance Code Section 541.152(a)-(b).

D. Additional Claims & Damages.

25. Plaintiff also seeks to recover damages and/or actual damages “caused by” Defendant’s Insurance Code violations. This includes, without limitation, damages resulting from Defendant’s delay in payment, resulting from Defendant’s unreasonable investigation. This includes, without limitation, costs for temporary repairs, additional property damage to Plaintiff’s home during the pendency of the claims process and this litigation, costs associated with appraisal costs or sums related to pre-appraisal damage assessments.

26. Plaintiff also seeks damages to compensate Plaintiff for the tangible and intangible consequences, suffering, stress and mental anguish of having to live with an unrepaired home for months.

E. ATTORNEY'S FEES

27. Plaintiff engaged the undersigned attorneys to prosecute this lawsuit against Defendant and agreed to pay reasonable attorney's fees and expenses through trial and any appeal.

28. Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable and necessary attorney's fees pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Sections 38.001-38.003 because an attorney that represents Plaintiff presented the claim to Defendant, and Defendant did not tender the just amount owed before the expiration of the 30th day after the claim was presented.

29. Plaintiff further prays that she be awarded all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in prosecuting her causes of action through trial and any appeal pursuant to Sections 541.152 and 542.060 of the Texas Insurance Code.

VI.

DISCOVERY REQUESTS

30. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 194, 195, 196, 197 & 198, and in accordance with the instructions stated therein, Plaintiff requests that Defendant respond to the attached Request for Disclosures, Request for Production, Interrogatories, and Request for Admissions within fifty (50) days of its receipt of the same. See Exhibit A, attached hereto.

VII.

TEX. R. CIV. P. 193.7 NOTICE.

31. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 193.7, the undersigned hereby notifies all parties and counsel of record that Plaintiff may introduce into evidence at the time of trial or pre-trial, those

documents produced by all parties in response to requests for production and/or requests for disclosure in this matter.

VIII.
JURY DEMAND

32. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 216, Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury and has tendered the appropriate fee.

IX.
PRAYER

33. WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendant be cited to appear and answer herein, and that, after due process of law, Plaintiff have judgment against Defendant for actual damages, together with exemplary damages, statutory damages, treble damages, statutory interest, pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, attorney's fees, costs of suit, and for all such other and further relief, both general and special, in law and in equity, to which Plaintiff may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BUZBEE LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Anthony G. Buzbee
Anthony G. Buzbee
State Bar No. 24001820
tbuzbee@txattorneys.com
Christopher J. Leavitt
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JP Morgan Chase Tower
600 Travis, Suite 6850
Houston, Texas 77002
Telephone: (713) 223-5393
Facsimile: (713) 223-5909

AND

LAW OFFICES OF MANUEL SOLIS, PC

By: /s/ Stephen R. Walker

Stephen R. Walker
State Bar No. 24001820
Texas Bar No. 24034729
Gregory J. Finney
Texas Bar No. 24044430
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swalker@manuelsolis.com
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jusolis@manuelsolis.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

EXHIBIT B-3

DELIVERED AUG 30 2019

CAUSE NO. 201958681

RECEIPT NO.

0.00

CIV

TR # 73661413

PLAINTIFF: MARTINEZ, ELVA
vs.
DEFENDANT: STATE FARM LLOYDS

In The 127th
Judicial District Court
of Harris County, Texas
127TH DISTRICT COURT
Houston, TX

CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

TO: STATE FARM LLOYDS BY SERVING THROUGH CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
211 EAST 7TH STREET SUITE 620 AUSTIN TX 78701 - 3218
Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

This instrument was filed on the 22nd day of August, 2019, in the above cited cause number and court. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO OFFICER SERVING:

This citation was issued on 22nd day of August, 2019, under my hand and seal of said Court.

Issued at request of:
LEAVITT, CHRISTOPHER JERROD
600 TRAVIS STREET SUITE 7300
HOUSTON, TX 77002
Tel: (713) 223-5393
Bar No.: 24053318



Marilyn Burgess

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk
Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
(P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)

Generated By: CUERO, NELSON 7MM//11308428

OFFICER/AUTHORIZED PERSON RETURN

Came to hand at _____ o'clock ____ .M., on the _____ day of _____, _____.

Executed at (address) _____ in

_____ County at _____ o'clock ____ .M., on the _____ day of _____,

_____, by delivering to _____ defendant, in person, a

true copy of this Citation together with the accompanying _____ copy(ies) of the Petition

attached thereto and I endorsed on said copy of the Citation the date of delivery.

To certify which I affix my hand officially this _____ day of _____, _____.

FEE: \$ _____

_____ of _____ County, Texas

By _____
Deputy

Affiant

On this day, _____, known to me to be the person whose signature appears on the foregoing return, personally appeared. After being by me duly sworn, he/she stated that this citation was executed by him/her in the exact manner recited on the return.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, on this _____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public

EXHIBIT B-4

CAUSE NO. 2019-58681

ELVA MARTINEZ,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	§	
	§	
v.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
STATE FARM LLOYDS,	§	
<i>Defendant.</i>	§	127TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Defendant State Farm Lloyds files this Original Answer to Plaintiff's Original Petition:

I.
GENERAL DENIAL

1. Defendant generally denies all material allegations contained in Plaintiff's Original Petition, and any amendment thereto, and demands strict proof thereof as allowed under the laws of the State of Texas. By this general denial, Defendant requires Plaintiff to prove every fact to support the claims in Plaintiff's Original Petition, and any amendment thereto, by a preponderance of the evidence.

II.
DEFENSES

2. **Policy Coverage Provisions.** Under the Insuring Agreement, Plaintiff bears the burden to prove the actual cash value of damage resulting from an occurrence of accidental direct physical loss to the insured property during the policy period. Plaintiff lacks proof of damages resulted from any accidental direct physical loss during the policy period beyond those damages found by State Farm under the Policy.

3. **Estoppel.** Plaintiff's breach of contract claim is barred by State Farm's payment of the appraisal award. Plaintiff is estopped from contesting whether State Farm complied with the insurance contract and estopped from contesting actual damages under the insurance contract based on State Farm's payment of the appraisal award.

4. **Payment of Award Bars Extra-Contractual Claims Flowing from Policy Benefits.** Because the amount of loss has been determined by appraisal and paid by State Farm, Plaintiff has not sustained any damages that could allow her to maintain any extra-contractual cause of action. Specifically, Plaintiff is not entitled to any additional policy benefits and she has not alleged any facts that would give rise to damages that do not flow from policy benefits or that otherwise constitute an independent injury.

5. **Limit of Liability.** State Farm's liability, if any, is limited to the amount of the policy limits under the subject policy, pursuant to the "Limit of Liability" and other clauses contained in the policy sued upon.

6. **Deductible/Offset.** Defendant is entitled to an offset or credit against Plaintiff's damages, if any, in the amount of Plaintiff's \$4,928.00 deductible, as well as an additional offset or credit in the amount of State Farm's payments to Plaintiff that total \$16,760.81.

a. **Loss Settlement Provision/Condition: Replacement Cost Benefits.** Under the Insuring Agreement, Plaintiff must first repair or replace the damaged property to recover replacement cost benefits and the Policy limits such coverage to

costs “necessarily” spent to repair the damaged property. The Policy specifically provides:

FE-3533.1 HOMEOWNERS POLICY ENDORSEMENT (Texas)

SECTION I - LOSS SETTLEMENT

COVERAGE A-DWELLING

Items 1. and 2. are replaced by the following:

1. A1 - Replacement Cost Loss Settlement - Similar Construction.

- a. We will pay the cost to repair or replace with similar construction and for the same use on the premises shown in the **Declarations**, the damaged part of the property covered under **SECTION I - COVERAGES, COVERAGE A - DWELLING**, except for wood fences, subject to the following:
 - (1) until actual repair or replacement is completed, we will pay only the actual cash value at the time of the loss of the damaged part of the property, up to the applicable limit of liability shown in the **Declarations**, not to exceed the cost to repair or replace the damaged part of the property;
 - (2) when the repair or replacement is actually completed, we will pay the covered additional amount you actually and necessarily spend to repair or replace the damaged part of the property, or an amount up to the applicable limit of liability shown in the **Declarations**, whichever is less;
 - (3) to receive any additional payments on a replacement cost basis, you must complete the actual repair or replacement of the damaged part of the property within two years after the date of loss, and give prompt notice to us after the work has been completed; and
 - (4) we will not pay for increased costs resulting from enforcement of any ordinance or law regulating the construction, repair or demolition of a building or other structure, except as provided under **Option OL - Building Ordinance or Law Coverage**.

Plaintiff lacks proof of completed repairs or replacement to any covered property damage connected with her insurance claim. As such, Plaintiff’s recovery in this case, if any, is currently limited to the actual cash value of the covered property damage.

7. **Wear and Tear, Deterioration.** Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because the damages and losses alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition, none being admitted, were proximately caused in whole or in part by wear and tear and related aging issues. The policy at issue provides that wear and tear does not fall under the coverage of the policy:

SECTION I – LOSSES NOT INSURED

1. We do not insure for any loss to the property described in Coverage A which consists of, or is directly and immediately caused by, one or more of the perils listed in items a. through n. below, regardless of whether the loss occurs suddenly or gradually, involves isolated or widespread damage, arises from natural or external forces, or occurs as a result of any combination of these:
* * * * *

- g. wear, tear, marring, scratching, deterioration, inherent vice, latent defect or mechanical breakdown...

Part of the property damages Plaintiff is claiming to her elevations and other areas of the property occurred over time through wear, tear, and deterioration. These conditions are not insured under the policy at issue.

8. **Bona Fide/Legitimate Dispute.** A bona fide/legitimate dispute exists precluding Plaintiff's recovery of damages under extra-contractual theories including for violations of the Texas Insurance Code or any other statutory or common law authority.

9. **Cap on Punitive Damages.** Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code §41.001, *et seq.*, applies and punitive damages awarded, if any, are subject to the statutory limit set forth therein, other applicable statutory authority, and the common law. Further, unless Plaintiff proves Defendant's liability for punitive damages, and the amount of punitive damages, if any, by clear and convincing evidence, any award of punitive damages would violate Defendant's due process rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment

to the United States Constitution and by Section 19 of Article 1 of the Texas Constitution.

PRAYER

Defendant prays that Plaintiff take nothing by her claims, and that Defendant recover its costs, fees, and expenses, and such other further relief to which Defendant may show itself to be justly entitled to, in law and in equity.

Respectfully submitted,

NISTICO, CROUCH & KESSLER, P.C.

By: /s/ M. Micah Kessler
M. Micah Kessler
State Bar No. 00796878
Jazmine J. Ford
State Bar No. 24109881
1900 West Loop South, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77027
Telephone: (713) 781-2889
Telecopier: (713) 781-7222
Email: mkessler@nck-law.com
Email: jford@nck-law.com

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument was served on all parties through counsel of record in compliance with Rules 21 and 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure on September 20, 2019, in the manner(s) prescribed below:

Anthony G. Buzbee
Christopher J. Leavitt
The Buzbee Law Firm
600 Travis, Suite 6850
Houston, Texas 77002
VIA EFILE

Stephen R. Walker
Gregory J. Finney
Juan Solis
Law Offices of Manuel Solis, PC
6657 Navigation Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77011
VIA EFILE

/s/ M. Micah Kessler
M. Micah Kessler

[Print this page](#)

Case # 201958681 - MARTINEZ, ELVA v STATE FARM LLOYDS

Case Information

Location	Harris County - 127th Civil District Court
Date Filed	9/20/2019 5:47 PM
Case Number	201958681
Case Description	MARTINEZ, ELVA v STATE FARM LLOYDS
Assigned to Judge	
Attorney	M Kessler
Firm Name	Nistico Crouch & Kessler PC
Filed By	Tyffeni Nguyen
Filer Type	Attorney

Fees

Convenience Fee	\$0.00
Total Court Case Fees	\$0.00
Total Court Party Fees	\$0.00
Total Court Filing Fees	\$0.00
Total Court Service Fees	\$0.00
Total Filing & Service Fees	\$0.00
Total Provider Service Fees	\$0.00
Total Provider Tax Fees	\$0.00
Total Taxes (for non-court fees)	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$0.00

Payment

Account Name	AMEX 6004
Transaction Amount	\$0.00
Transaction Response	
Transaction ID	55231109
Order #	

Answer/ Response / Waiver

Filing Type	EFileAndServe
Filing Code	Answer/ Response / Waiver
Filing Description	Defendant's Original Answer
Reference Number	Martinez, Elva
Comments	

Status Submitting

Fees

Court Fee \$0.00

Service Fee \$0.00

Documents

Lead Document Martinez, Elva - SF Original Answer.pdf [\[Original\]](#)

eService Details

Name/Email	Firm	Service Method	Status	Served	Date/Time Opened
Jessica Salto jsalto@txattorneys.com	Buzbee Law Firm	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Christopher Leavitt cleavitt@txattorneys.com	Buzbee Law Firm	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Ryan Steinhart rSteinhart@txattorneys.com	The Buzbee Law Firm	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Rian Taff rtaff@txattorneys.com		EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Harvey Clerk LawClerk@txattorneys.com	The Buzbee Law Firm	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Anthony Buzbee tbuzbee@txattorneys.com		EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Gregory J. Finney gfinney@manuelisolis.com		EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Jazmine Ford jford@nck-law.com	NCK, PC	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
M. Micah Kessler mkessler@nck-law.com	NCK, PC	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Juan Solis jusolis@manuelisolis.com		EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Stephen R. Walker swalker@manuelisolis.com		EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened
Tyffeni Nguyen tnguyen@nck-law.com	Nistico, Crouch & Kessler	EServe	Not Sent	No	Not Opened